

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus, a magnetic recording and reproducing method, and a thin film magnetic head that enable a good contact between elements and a recording medium with a reduced track pitch even if the number of head channels is increased, thereby realizing high recording density and high transfer rate.

At least one multitrack write head having  $N$  ( $N$  is an integer of 2 or more) write elements arranged along a track width direction in an integral fashion and at least one multitrack read head having  $L$  ( $L$  is an integer equal to or more than  $N$ ) read elements arranged along the track width direction in an integral fashion are formed on the rotary drum. The multitrack write head writes signals to a group of  $N$  tracks aligned parallel on the magnetic tape during one rotation of the rotary drum, and the multitrack read head reads the group of  $N$  signal tracks by the use of any one of the  $L$  read elements.